



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

Winter Trail Report – 11/18/15

Please note the date for reports and recognize changes may have occurred since report. This will report will be updated on a tentative bi-weekly basis or when drastic changes in conditions occur. Reporting of conditions is limited this time of year and any reports you have to share are welcome and appreciated.

Check the Northwest Avalanche Center Report and the Mount Rainier Recreational Weather Report before heading out. Avalanche assessment and route-finding skills are needed for many winter activities in the park this time of year.

Weather Report Link: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sew/get.php?wfo=sew&pil=REC&sid=SEW>

Avalanche Report Link: <http://nwac.us/avalanche-forecast/current/cascade-west-south/>

Call the **Longmire Information Center** between 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM if you have questions (360-569-6575).

Southwest Summary Report, 11/4/15: Storms have brought significant winds and flooding to Mount Rainier again, November has been a stormy month. On top of bridges that we know are out from the last storm, the recent storm brought so many downed trees the park road was closed temporarily. While no reports are in yet, with so much effort putting into just clearing roads you should expect downed trees on many of the trails.

Longmire Area Trails, 11/4/15: Longmire has hints of snow out there, but not much. By sticking to Kautz Creek, Trail of Shadows or Rampart Ridge trails you should be able to hike without snow being an issue, but look out for downed trees.


The foot bridge over the Nisqually to Carter Falls (near Cougar Rock campground) is washed out, no report on the trail beyond that point.

The bridge over Kautz Creek is out. There have been mixed reports, but it sounds like the only people crossing Kautz Creek are fording the creek themselves, which is not recommended with the fast moving waters.

Prior to the most recent storm, reports still had the bridges in on the Wonderland Trail heading west from Longmire towards Indian Henry's. Waiting for reports for any changes.

Navigation should not currently be an issue with any trails found on the Longmire Winter Trails PDF.

<http://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/upload/Longmire-Winter-Trails-Dec13.pdf>



Paradise Area Trails, 11/18/15: Paradise 5400' has enough fresh snow to obscure the trails but not enough to protect the vegetation. While folks experienced with snow hiking and familiar with Paradise might be able to easily find their way around, everyone needs to operate within their own comfort level and skill range. You are responsible for your own navigation and trusting someone else's tracks in the snow is not navigation.

Snow is 1' to 2' deep in the Paradise area. With the recent heavy rain and a drop in freeze levels over the next couple of days very icy conditions may develop. New snow over the next few days might help mitigate the icy conditions, but will also mean an increased need for navigation skills.

See the [Paradise Autumn Recreation PDF](#) for suggested routes and avalanche terrain in the Paradise area. Remember navigation is your responsibility and yours alone.

East Side Area Update, 11/18/15: SR 123 and 410 in the park, including Chinook and Cayuse Pass were closed on Monday due to the storm. As of right now there is no word on if they will re-open or remained closed for the winter. See the Washington State Department of Transportation for updates. <http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/passes/default.aspx>

No report on trail conditions, use the southwest area conditions as an estimate. Expect downed trees and washed out bridges.

Self-registration set up at the White River Ranger Station for backpacking and climbing. The self-registration will move to the SR 410 closure at the park boundary if SR 410 is to remain closed.

Carbon/Mowich Area Update 11/4/5:

The road to Mowich is closed at the Park Boundary

Call (360) 829-9639 for the **Carbon River Ranch Ranger Station** hours. There is self-registration for climbing and backpacking set up outside when the Carbon River Ranch Ranger Station is not staffed.

The Carbon River area can be one of the hardest hit areas of the park during storms. With no reports available expect downed trees, washed out sections of trail and washed bridges.

The bridge over the south or north Mowich River is confirmed to be washed out by some hikers. They were not completely sure of their location.

Please be safe out there and pass along any condition reports you have to share.
